Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 MCE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /114 W

O 242300Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7985

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

-----125799 242335Z/73

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 1001

JIDDA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH SF WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA-RHODESIA: PIK BOTHA DEMARCHE

REF: CAPE TOWN 590

1. SUMMARY: REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD SAID THE U.S. WOULD FURNISH ARMS TO MOZAMBIQUE, BOTSWANA, ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA IS INCORRECT. DND SUMMARY.
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2. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE AT LUSAKA AIRPORT AFTER ABRIVAL FROM DAR MARCH 22, AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ASKED, "IF PRESIDENT KAUNDA OR ZAMBIA DID APPROACH YOU TO ASK FOR UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO HIT BACK AT RHODESIA (IF RHODESIAN ARMY MADE FURTHER ATTACKS ON ZAMBIA), WOULD THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THIS REQUEST FROM ZAMBIA?"

3. IN RESPONSE, YOUNG SAID: "I THINK U.S. POLICY TOWARD ARMS TRANSFERS ALL OVER THE WORLD IS ESSENTIALLY TO TRY TO CONFINE OUR ARMS TO WEAPONS THAT WOULD BE STRICTLY DEFENSIVE AND OUR AID TO AID THAT IS ESSENTIALLY HUMANITARIAN, AND I THINK THAT WE HAVE BEEN OPEN TO REQUESTS FROM ZAMBIA IN THOSE CATEGORIES. BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE RECEIVED ANY REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM ZAMBIA."

4. IN INTERVIEW WITH A ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORTER MARCH 23, THE REPORTER ASKED AMBASSADOR YOUNG ESSENTIALLY THE SAME QUESTION AND RECEIVED THE SAME ANSWER. YOUNG WENT ON TO DESCRIBE

PROJECTED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA IN PARTICULAR AND OBJECTIVER OF OUR ECONOMIC AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. HOWEVER, IN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN DAILY MAIL MARCH PWRN THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT ABOUT A POSSIBLE REQUEST FROM ZAMBIA FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND HIS REMARKS ABOUT ECONOMIC AID WERE LUMPED TOGETHER INACCURATELY.

5. COMMENT: ZAMBIAN HYSTERIA OVER RHODESIAN RAIDS IS VERY MUCH ON THE MINDS OF GOV. OF ZAMBIA AS WELL AS PRESS AND GENERAL PUBLIC. MY COMMENTS WERE AN ATTEMPT TO CALM THIS FEELING AND ENCOURAGE ZAMBIAN RESISTANCE TO OFFERS OF CUBAN AND

RUSSIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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